PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:

Attorney Docket No.: 3269.01US02

Edward H. Dougherty

Confirmation No.: 3852

Application No.:

10/648,834

Filed:

August 26, 2003

Group Art Unit: 3618

For:

SHIELD FOR TRAILER COUPLER

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This information is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No certification or fee is required.

This application was filed after June 30, 2003; therefore, copies of cited U.S. patents and U.S. published applications are not included.

Respectfully submitted,

Bradley J. Thorson

Registration No. 52,288

Customer No. 24113 Patterson, Thuente, Skaar & Christensen, P.A. 4800 IDS Center 80 South 8th Street Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-2100

Telephone: (612) 349-5657

Please grant any extension of time necessary for entry; charge any fee due to Deposit Account No. 16-0631.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this document is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

Date of Deposit / /

Bradley / Thorson

Complete if Known Substitute for form 1449/PTO Application Number 10/648,834 FORMATION DISCLOSURE Filing Date August 26, 2003 EATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary) First Named Inventor Edward H. Dougherty (Use as many sheets as necessary) Art Unit Examiner Name Attorney Docket Number 3269.01US02 Sheet of 1 U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS EXAMINER **Publication Date** Name of Patentee or Applicant Cite of Cited Document INITIAL* No.1 Document Number MM-DD-YYYY Number-Kind Code² (if known) US-6,412,806 B1 07/02/2002 Doyle F. Peacock Melinda K. Bowman US-6,332,853 B1 12/25/2001 US-6,325,121 B1 12/04/2001 Shea D. Hudnall Anthony Tolbert US-6,113,142 09/05/2000 US-6,039,339 03/21/2000 Louis Bello US-6,022,038 02/08/2000 Boyce A. Maxwell et al. US-5,048,217 09/17/1991 Michael D. Easter Grover W. White 08/22/1989 US-4,858,361 John T. Thompson et al. US-3,557,298 01/19/1971 Thomas P. Abbott US-3,491,847 01/27/1970 US-US-US-US-US-US-US-US-US-FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS **EXAMINER** Foreign Patent Document **Publication Date** Cite Т6 '• INITIAL' MM-DD-YYYY Name of Patentee or Applicant No.1 Country Code³ Number⁴Kind Code⁵ of Cited Document (if known) DE 3635730 A1 06/23/1988 Sandvoss GB 2 255 538 A 11/11/1992 Graham Stokes et al. **EXAMINER** DATE

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

SIGNATURE

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.